

Mobility Survey: Results of Surveys Returned

In late summer of 2004, the Section 8 Department of the Newark Housing Authority sent a survey to every family that had attended one of the Housing Opportunity Counseling Sessions in the previous 12 months. Presented below are the results for the 111 surveys that were returned. Please note that not every respondent answered every question and that, for certain questions, multiple responses were permitted.

1. Why did you choose to attend the Housing Opportunity Counseling session?
143 responses
 - ☐ Because I was thinking about moving and wanted to learn about other locations
86 responses (60%)
 - ☐ Because I thought the Housing Opportunity Program was a new program, different from Section 8
18 responses (12.5%)
 - ☐ Because I did not like the neighborhood I was living in
22 responses (15%)
 - ☐ Because I thought I could get a higher rent approved if I moved somewhere else
2 responses (1%)
 - ☐ Other: Please describe: **I wanted a townhome. 2 responses (1%)**
2. Did the Housing Opportunity Counseling session meet your needs?
129 responses
 - ☐ Yes, I learned about other neighborhoods where I could use my Housing Choice Voucher;
67 responses (52%)
 - ☐ Yes, I learned about moving with my Voucher;
48 responses (37%)
 - ☐ No, the session did not meet my needs.
14 responses (11%)
3. What information would have made the Opportunity Counseling more useful?
262 responses
 - ☐ More information about Opportunity Areas. Please specify
 - ☐ Schools
33 responses (12.5%)
 - ☐ Transportation
28 responses (11%)
 - ☐ Housing Types
25 responses (9%)

- ☐ Crime
31 responses (12%)
- ☐ Social Services
20 responses (8%)
- ☐ Employment Opportunities
19 responses (7%)
- ☐ Information about Opportunity Areas closer to or in Newark
27 responses (10%)
- ☐ More information about how to move with a Housing Choice Voucher
46 responses (18%)

4. If your answer to question number 2 was **Yes**, did you
103 responses

- ☐ Move to another neighborhood in Newark?
14 responses (13.5%)
- ☐ Move to a different apartment in the same neighborhood in Newark?
10 responses (10%)
- ☐ Move outside of Newark?
9 responses (8%)
- ☐ Decide not to move at all?
50 responses (49%)

5. If you moved to a new neighborhood, is it better than the one you moved out of?
33 responses

- ☐ Yes
30 responses (91%)
- ☐ No
3 responses (9%)

6. If your answer to question 5 was yes, how is your new neighborhood better?
69 responses

- ☐ The schools are better
10 responses (14%)
- ☐ The transportation is better
7 responses (10%)
- ☐ My new apartment is better
27 responses (40%)
- ☐ There is less crime
18 responses (26%)

- ☐ The social services are better
4 responses (6%)
 - ☐ There are better employment opportunities
3 responses (5%)
7. If your answer to question number 2 was **No**, did you
3 responses
- ☐ Move to another neighborhood in Newark?
3 responses (100%)
 - ☐ Move to a different apartment in the same neighborhood in Newark?
0 responses
 - ☐ Move outside of Newark?
0 responses
 - ☐ Decide not to move at all
0 responses
8. Did you consider moving to an "Opportunity Area"?
98 responses
- ☐ Yes, I considered it
65 responses (66%)
 - ☐ Yes, I moved to an Opportunity Area
6 responses (6%)
 - ☐ No, I didn't consider moving to an Opportunity Area
27 responses (27%)
9. Is there any additional information that the Newark Housing Authority could provide to you that would help you get the most from the Housing Choice Voucher program for your family?
97 responses
- ☐ Yes
49 responses (51%)
 - ☐ No
48 responses (49%)
10. If your answer to question 9 was yes, what information could we provide?
1. **As much information as possible**
 2. **Opportunities out of state**
 3. **More information on areas of low crime**
 4. **Overcoming bad credit**

5. Moving to a relative's property (not permitted by program rules)
6. How to own (6 responses)
7. Splitting a voucher
8. Education and employment
9. Help with utility payment
10. How to get a house (instead of an apartment) (11 responses)
11. How to get my security deposit back
12. Listing of available units in East Orange and Irvington
13. How to use my voucher elsewhere
14. Locations and phone numbers of other PHAs
15. Have an annual mobility workshop
16. Better location for a single mom with kids
17. Ways to obtain or save money for a security deposit
18. Units in Union and Burlington
19. Transportation
20. Units in Pennsylvania
21. Helping my extended family get Section 8
22. NHA providing better housing
23. Help finding a nice apartment
24. List of apartments
25. Information about childcare
26. More time for questions and answers
27. More information on social services
28. Improvements to the portability process
29. More information about opportunity areas
30. Closer opportunity areas (needed if you have no car) (7 responses)
31. Counseling was good but opportunity areas are too far away